

# News Release



**Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex**  
**P.O. Box 21, 360 Smith Road**  
**Shirley, New York 11967**

Contact: Refuge Manager: 631-286-0485  
Fax: 631-286-4003

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES CONTRIBUTE TO THREATENED SPECIES POPULATION**

Refuge Manager Deborah Long announced that Morton National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) off Noyac Road in Sag Harbor and Amagansett NWR in Easthampton experienced its most productive beach nesting bird season in recent years. Six pairs of federally threatened piping plovers raised 14 chicks and 51 pairs of state threatened least terns raised 35 chicks on both refuges' beaches. This year's success can be credited in large part to the partial beach closure and the refuge's intense management efforts. Work included cleaning the beach, erecting fencing around the nests to protect the eggs from predators and monitoring the birds and their nesting success. A special thanks goes out to the refuges' neighbors and visitors for respecting the temporary closure.

With the nesting season over, the Jessup's Neck peninsula beach area at Morton NWR is now open for people to enjoy its natural beauty and abundant wildlife. Similarly, the beach area above the high tide line at Amagansett NWR is open as well.

"These birds are a part of Long Island's natural history and protecting them is a responsibility we all share," said Long. "We can also share the success - respecting beach closures and keeping the beaches and trails clean helped ensure the great nesting season."

Morton and Amagansett NWRs are part of the larger National Wildlife Refuge System which consists of 545 wildlife refuges throughout the United States. Created specifically to provide habitat for migratory birds, the refuges boast the presence of close to 300 species of birds at various times throughout the year. Located on the Atlantic flyway, a major bird migration highway, Long Island plays a vital role in the lives of birds that need wintering and nesting habitat as well as rest stops along the way. Because of its importance to wildlife, Long Island features 8 national wildlife refuges and a wildlife management area.

For more information about Morton and Amagansett NWR or other Long Island National Wildlife Refuges, visit <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges> or call 631-286-0485.